



12 May 2012

Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montréal QC H2Y 1N9

Subject: Canada submission regarding Notification SCBD/BS/MPDM/jh/67587

Dear Mr. Ferreira de Souza Dias:

Canada would like to take this opportunity to provide information relevant to the Notification SCBD / BS / MPDM / jh / 67587 from the CBD Secretariat requesting the identification of living modified organisms that are not likely to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.

Canada has many years of experience with environmental releases of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs). In the attached submission Canada provides information, informed by Canada's environmental reviews and practical experience to date, regarding plants and microbes unlikely to result in harm to conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity.


Canada is of the view that future CBD activities should seek to contribute to the development of common scientific methodologies and decision-making at all levels relevant for the exercise of the provisions contained in Article 7.4 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which sets out the procedure whereby the Parties may designate LMOs that are exempt from the requirement for the advance informed agreement under the Protocol.

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Canada would propose that additional analysis in support of this work program should focus on LMOs which have already been approved in more than one country based on the principles in Annex III to the Protocol in order to: (1) identify common characteristics / traits of LMOs unlikely to cause a risk to biodiversity; and (2) review the commonality of information requirements and the portability of the science of risk assessment between Parties and Governments as way to consider the merits of the portability of data and the possibility of applying risk assessments either in whole or in part to a number of regulatory jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Matt Jones
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Attachment:

- *Submission by Canada entitled, "Information relevant to the identification of living modified organisms that are not likely to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health", May 12, 2012.*